

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is filed under 37 C.F.R. prior to the initial review of pending U.S. Application Serial Number 09/672,602, which was filed on September 29, 2000. Applicant respectfully requests examination of all pending claims 1-80. Such examination at Examiner's earliest convenience is respectfully solicited.

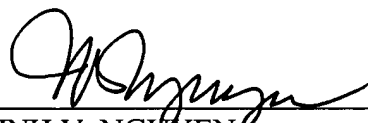
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests examination of these claims at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: March 21, 2002 .



Barbara Hayashi